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PATENT

We Claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for ~~providing project data and/or project planning data of~~converting data from a proprietary format in an automation project or component, ~~characterized to a format defined by a standardized meta format,~~comprising a conversion apparatus, and further comprising means for converting the data with a defined format into project data and/or project planning data with a proprietary format ~~into data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, in particular XML, and for converting back data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, in particular XML, into project data and/or project planning data with a proprietary format and~~means for providing the data with a defined format for further processing.
2. (Currently Amended) The device as ~~claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it contains~~further comprising an export/import apparatus ~~for exporting/importing data from the device and into it, respectively.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The device as ~~claimed in one of claims 1 or 2,~~characterized in thataccording to claim 2, wherein the conversion device and the export/import apparatus are embodied as ~~one~~in a single apparatus.
4. (Currently Amended) The device as ~~claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~characterized byaccording to claim 1, further comprising a data storage apparatus for storing the data with a defined format.

5. (Currently Amended) An engineering system ~~having~~comprising ~~at~~the device as ~~elaimed in one of claims 1~~according to 4-claim 1.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing project data and/or project planning data ~~offrom~~an automation project or component, ~~characterized in that~~comprising converting the project data and/or project planning data ~~withhaving~~a proprietary format ~~is converted into~~ data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, ~~in particular XML,~~ and which is made available for further processing.
7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 6, ~~characterized further comprising reading in that~~and processing the data with a defined format ~~is read in and processed by~~ at least one software program product or tool.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing project data and/or project planning data ~~offrom~~an automation project or component, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~at least one computer program product or tool generates project data and/or project planning data or such data is generated~~comprising generating by means of ~~said~~ at least one computer program product or tool data in a proprietary format, and making this data ~~is made~~ available for further processing in a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, ~~in particular XML.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of~~according to claims 6 ~~to and~~ 8, characterized in that further comprising storing data ~~with~~having a defined format is ~~stored in~~ a data storage apparatus.
10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9,~~ characterized in that according to claim 7, wherein the at least one software program product or tool is selected from a version administration tool, a CAD, CAM, CAE program, a cam disk tool, a productivity program or a project design tool.
11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10,~~ characterized in that according to claim 7, further comprising exporting data with a defined format is ~~exported from the at least one software program product, in~~ particular or tool into a device ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5.~~according to claim 1.
12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in claim 11, characterized in~~ that according to claim 11, further comprising converting the data with a defined format is ~~converted into~~ project data and/or project planning data ~~with~~having a proprietary format.